

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

My name is Steve Powell and I am the CEO and president of Atlas Communications, an independent ISP in Springfield Mo. We began business in 1998 and presently have about 3,800 customers, most of whom live and work in the Springfield area but we also do some web hosting for customers throughout the nation.

We offer many services that our local phone company, Southwestern Bell, does not. Services like free Internet training, local technical support, and free hardware set-up and troubleshooting for the customers computer.

When we opened for business we started, as many ISPs did, with a very basic equipment setup and of course, phone lines from Southwestern Bell. We have actually had a pretty good relationship with our local SBC company other than the normal mix-ups that occur with the large ILECs. We also buy lines from a CLEC operating in Springfield that offers better pricing.

Today we use digital PRI's (Primary Rate ISDN) and some fiber from another CLEC. Since we started using CLECs for some of our services the price has gone down, but more importantly, service has improved.

Unfortunately, I can't say the same about DSL. The CLECs we work with have chosen not to enter the DSL business, and the expansion of some of the

Sincerely,

Steve Powell
1903 S Glenstone
Springfield, MO 65804